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Summary record of the 56th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 2 April 2001, at 7 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 7.15 p.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chairman** invited the coordinator of the informal consultations on agenda item 123, Human resources management, to report on the status of those consultations so that the Committee could take an informed decision on how to organize its work for the rest of the first part of the resumed fifty-fifth session.

2. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan), speaking in his capacity as the coordinator of informal consultations on agenda item 123, said that all delegations were showing a positive attitude and making strenuous efforts to agree on a draft resolution on human resources management. Many issues remained to be clarified in that regard. The amount of time needed to complete the draft resolution would depend on the progress achieved in the consultations to be held immediately after the current meeting, which would focus on areas of controversy. Even if delegations reached an agreement by the end of the evening, additional time would be needed the following day to adjust the text of the draft.

3. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau of the Committee wished to propose that all outstanding issues should be postponed until after the draft resolution on human resources management had been finalized. The Committee would then hold a formal meeting, probably in two days' time, to take action on those issues and to close the first part of the resumed session.

4. **Mr. Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee should have been able to complete its work by the end of the preceding week. He hoped that progress would be made in the informal consultations to be held after the current meeting; such progress would depend on the willingness of all to reach agreement. The Group of 77 and China took the reform of human resources management very seriously and had made specific proposals in that area; they had also made some concessions in the interest of reaching a consensus. They were concerned and disappointed that some of the issues on which an understanding had been reached had subsequently been reopened. In the informal consultations, the Group of 77 and China had been prepared to withdraw or amend some of their proposals. However, if other delegations did not reciprocate that constructive approach, an extension of the first part of the resumed session would not be helpful.

5. **Mr. Nesser** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that he appreciated the constructive efforts made by all delegations, including the Group of 77 and China. The text under consideration, most of which did not emanate from European Union countries, was very long. The European Union was prepared to cooperate with all other delegations, in a spirit of flexibility, with a view to completing the Committee's work as soon as possible.

6. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to postpone action on outstanding issues until after the draft resolution on human resources management had been finalized, as proposed by the Bureau.

7. *It was so decided.*

Other matters

8. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had confirmed that, in future, it would circulate preliminary versions of draft resolutions to delegations by electronic mail, as proposed by the representative of Egypt at the preceding meeting.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.